

R 301236Z MAR 09
FM AMEMBASSY PORT LOUIS
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4489
INFO SOUTHERN AF DEVELOPMENT COMMUNITY COLLECTIVE

UNCLAS PORT LOUIS 000099

AF/E FOR MARIA BEYZEROV

E.O. 12958: N/A

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SUBJECT: MAURITIUS WANTS MADAGASCAR CONSTITUTION RESPECTED

REF: STATE 29453

On March 30, Polchief delivered reftel demarche to Naugib Soomauroo, First Secretary of the Bilateral Affairs Division of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. Soomauroo said that Prime Minister Ramgoolam and FORMIN Boolell have been in Swaziland since this weekend to push essentially the same points conveyed in the reftel demarche. Soomauroo added that the highest possible delegation was sent because of the importance of democracy in the region and the various Mauritian business interests in Madagascar that include textiles and agriculture. With regards to the preferred timeline for elections, Soumauroo said the original request was within two months as stipulated in the Malagasy constitution, but realistically speaking he thinks that six months will be the earliest possible time expressed in any SADC communique.

BLASER